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SUBJECT : EQUAL - Dr. Erwin BRANDT MICROFILMED: 20 JUL 1963

NOTE: This information was supplied by Dr. BRANDT in several interviews conducted by different agencies at different times.

1. Erwin BRANDT, born 4 March 1899 at G6hren, Mecklenburg, was criminal advisor to HSHA IV A 1 in the field of Communism from 1932 on. In an interview in August 1947 by a member of the US War Crimes Staff, he admitted having known something of Communist clandestine activities in Germany from 1933 to 1945 and having heard of EQUAL. He supplied no detailed information in either field in this interview, nor in the written report he subsequently prepared.

2. In January 1948, BRANDT was interviewed again specifically with reference to his connection with EQUAL. He knew relatively little about the organization, however, and that came mostly from reports circulated to a limited number of Amt IV officials during and after the German EQUAL investigation. From these, BRANDT recalled only the names of SCHULZE-BOYSEN and HARNACK; he could give no new information about them. On EQUAL connections outside Germany he was able to supply only an incoherent story about a "Grand Chef."

3. BRANDT's explanation of the means employed by the Gestapo to detect EQUAL activities and the circumstances by which they first came to the Gestapo's attention is as follows: In 1932, he was working for Abteilung IA, Inspection II, of the Berlin Police Presidium (political police). During that year the police several times raided the offices of the Liga gegen Imperialismus and the Aufbruch Arbeitsgemeinschaft and the homes of known members of the organizations. Although no incriminating material was found, personal messages written on small scraps of paper were discovered; these scraps always bore the letters LMS. SCHULZE-BOYSEN was believed to belong to one of the two organizations and was hence kept under

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observation by the police, although they did not know the meaning of OMS. The routine surveillance of SCHULZE-BOYSEN led eventually to the discovery of the EQUAL group.

Field Comment: Certain aspects of this information are confirmed in SCHULZE-BOYSEN's biography, written in 1947 by his father Erich Edgar SCHULZE of Duisberg, in the statement: "During the summer of 1932, at the age of 23, my son joined the editorial board of the monthly political magazine Der Gegner, founded by Franz JUNG. Shortly thereafter he became its editor in chief. The magazine advocated cooperation between the progressive youth movements in all countries on the basis of socialism and planned economy. Among the members of the editorial board were Adrian TUXEL, Fred SCHMIDT, Horst JEDZKE, E. von SALOMON, Franz MARIAUX, Graf DUECKHEIT, etc." Ernst von SALOMON is known to have been active in the Liga gegen Imperialismus; the others are unknown. SCHULZE-BOYSEN was arrested in 1932 or 1933 by the Gestapo, but the exact reasons had never been clear; BRANDT's explanation may be the true one.

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4. BRANDT said that OMS stood for International Liaison Section (Internationale Verbindungsabteilung), which he believed was a roof organization for illegal Communist and Russian intelligence activities, but he was unable to give any details.

Field Comment: OMS (Otdel Mezhdunarodno Svyazi - Department of International Liaison), the Comintern communications organization, is discussed in S-Memo 17, Interim Report on the Third (Communist) International, dated 1 November 1947.

5. BRANDT stated that he had never heard the names ROBINSON and SCHABMEL. He was aware of the existence of the AI and BB Apparat in Germany after 1933 but knew nothing of them except what is common knowledge and could recall only the names of KIPPENBERGER and NEUMANN.

Field Comment: BRANDT was transferred from Murnberg to the internment camp at Dachau about the beginning of September 1947 and is there awaiting Spruchkammer trial, probably within the next six months.

The Liga gegen Imperialismus was one of the many Communist-inspired pacifist organizations in Europe in the pre-war period; it was also known as the League Against War. Helene RADO, as Herta TEMPI, was secretary of the secretary general of the League Against War in 1932, a suggestive connection with the entire EQUAL background.

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